



Jesus Teaches: Showing Mercy

Lesson Aim: To know we are blessed when we show mercy by forgiving others.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Serves

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 5:1-2, 7

What He has done: Jesus taught the crowd to forgive (show mercy).

CRAFT: BIG LOVE - BIG HUG

Purpose: To challenge children to show the love of Christ through kindness and forgiveness.

Supplies: Bright-colored sturdy paper, yarn, tape, crayons or markers, optional: heart stickers or other craft decorations

Prepare: For each child, use the templates to print and cut out the poem, a left hand, and a right hand (unless you are using the optional suggestion below). Create an envelope using a sheet of brightly-colored sturdy standard-size paper. Fold the paper in half, leaving just enough at the top to fold over for a flap. Tape or glue the sides closed.

Optional: Instead of using the hand templates, you may choose to trace and cut out each child's handprints as they arrive.

Directions:

1. Child uses crayons, markers, stickers, or other craft decorations to decorate the envelope and the two handprints.
2. Child stretches his or her arms as wide as possible. Teacher measures and cuts a piece of yarn to match the distance from fingertip to fingertip of the child's outstretched arms.
3. Attach a handprint to each end of the yarn with tape.
4. Child places the handprints connected with yarn into the envelope.
5. Attach the poem to the front of the envelope.

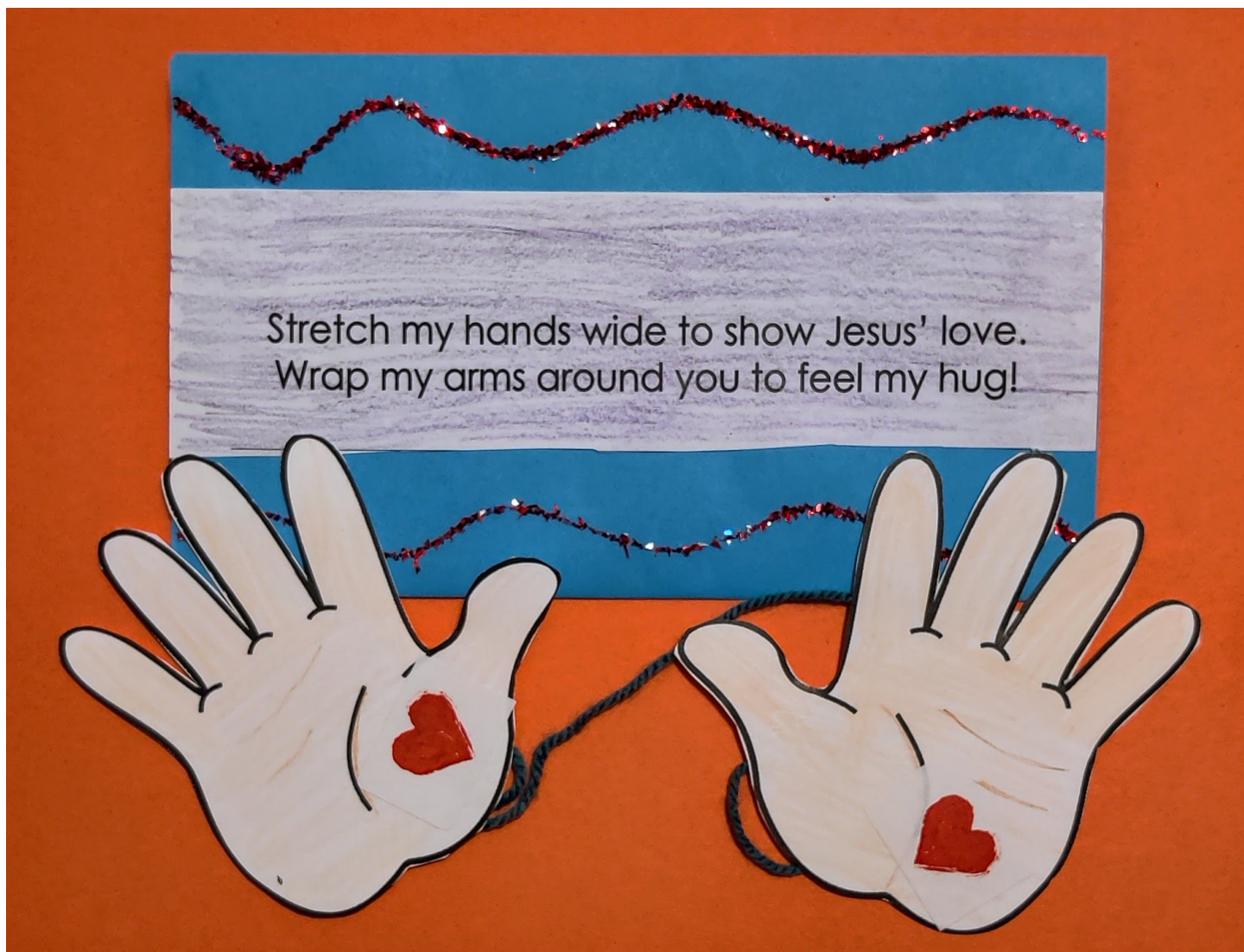
Ages 2-3 Craft Discussion:

- **When you forgive others, you show them how big Jesus' love is. Who does Jesus want us to forgive?** (Friends, brothers, sisters, parents, everyone.)
- **Our Forgive Everyone Heart Craft reminds us Jesus wants us to "forgive everyone."**

Ages 4-5 Craft Discussion:

- **Let's see how far apart you can spread your arms.** Children stretch their arms wide. **The love of Jesus is even bigger than that!**
- **When you forgive others, you show them how big Jesus' love is. Give the envelope to someone you know. Spread the hands apart to show them how big and wide the love of Jesus is. Then wrap the hands around them like a great big hug!**

CRAFT SAMPLE



Stretch my hands wide to show Jesus' love.
Wrap my arms around you to feel my hug!

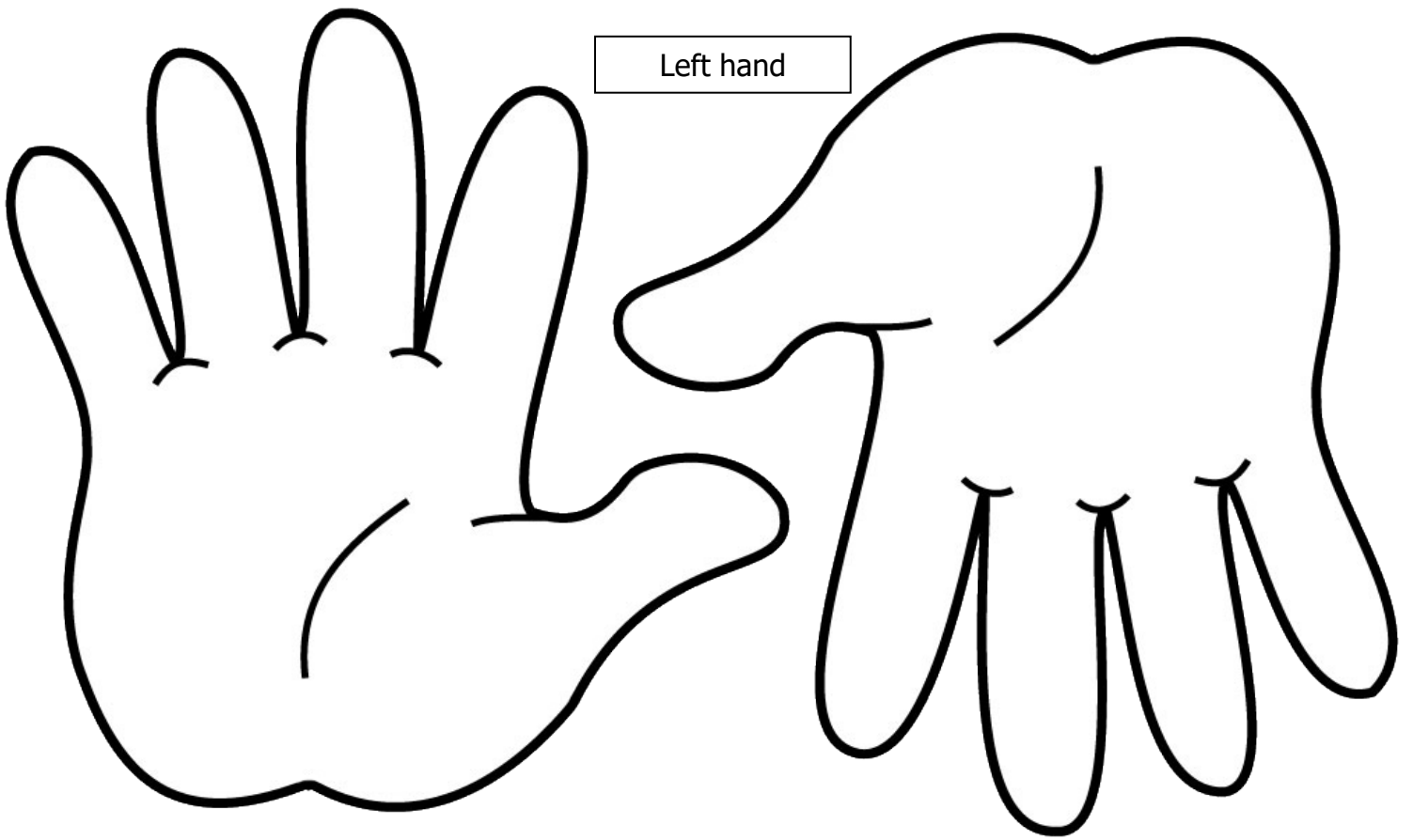
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Left hand



Right hand

